

Eastland of Mississippi served as chairman. I remember the various measures that went before the Judiciary Committee for debate and action were those bills that were agreed upon by Senator Hruska and Senator Eastland.

Senator Hruska was a profound lawyer, and I say that advisedly in the sense of a little quibble. Everybody will remember or the media friends will remember when we were trying to nominate a Supreme Court Justice, that maybe he was not a graduate of Harvard and, therefore, sort of what they would call "mediocre talent." That nettled the Senator from Nebraska and he said, "Well, there are a lot of people in the land and a lot of lawyers of mediocre talent and maybe they need representation on the Court."

I remember him as a very erudite counsel who worked on these measures seriously and with purpose and was most respected. He has been a loss, I say to Senator HAGEL. He has been missed over the many years because he held the line. We deliberated in a bipartisan fashion, and he contributed to that bipartisan leadership which is so lacking today.

We ought to be working together. It would be a happier day. But, unfortunately, here we go again. The downtown crowd thinks they can embellish a computer glitch problem into a reform of the State tort laws with respect to joint and several liability, punitive damages, and everything else. As a result, it is a nonstarter.

Like last week, the folks thought it would be good, since the President said, "I'm going to save 62 percent for Social Security," they one-upmanshiped and said, "We'll save 100 percent," knowing all along the 100 percent going to pay down the debt was coming from Social Security, increasing the debt on Social Security, thereby savaging, not saving, the fund. But so it goes.

We do miss Senator Hruska. Mostly we miss his habits and his leadership and his balance in service. I think more than the balanced budget, what we need is balanced Senators.

With that, I yield the floor for a balanced Senator, the distinguished Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I listened with interest to the comments of the Senator from Nebraska about the late Senator Roman Hruska. There is something unique about Nebraska. There has been a long line of outstanding Senators to represent that State on both sides of the aisle. I know my colleagues and I appreciate very much both of our Senators from Nebraska, and they have carried on the tradition of Senator Curtis and Senator Hruska for honesty and integrity and a forthright addressing of the issues.

I know Senator Hruska is proud of Senator HAGEL, as Senator HAGEL and

the rest of us who had the privilege of knowing Senator Hruska appreciate him and his service for 22 years in the Senate—a very long time.

I agree with the comments of my old, dear friend from South Carolina that we do need more balance in the Senate. He and I occasionally find ourselves on different sides of an issue, as we do on this one. But our disagreements have been characterized with mutual respect and appreciation. And frankly, I enjoy the debates I have had over the years with the Senator from South Carolina because he marshals his audience, and not only that, he from time to time injects a degree of humor that illuminates as well as elevates the debate.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to former U.S. Senator Roman Hruska, who served Nebraska and our Nation with honor, dignity and ability for 22 years in the U.S. Senate, from 1954 to 1976.

I join my colleagues in mourning the passing of Roman Hruska. Roman was a man who embodied all the positive traits of a good public servant. He was selfless, a man of integrity and character, and someone who was committed to helping others.

I had the pleasure of serving with Roman during his entire service in the U.S. Senate. He and I were both Members of the class of 1954.

It is my hope that others will be inspired by Roman's commitment to public service and helping others. He was a good man who will be missed by a large circle of friends in and out of the Senate.

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of legislation introduced by Senator ROTH that would permanently protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The fate of the Arctic Refuge has been one of the highest profile natural resources issues of the past 20 years and will continue to be a key issue in the environmental debate. The Refuge is one of the last unspoiled wilderness areas in the United States, and is most often referred to as the "biological heart" of Alaska and "America's Serengeti."

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the only place in the United States where a full range of sub-arctic and arctic ecosystems are protected in one unbroken stretch of land. This 1.5 million acre coastal plain is home to a vast number of species including arctic foxes, musk oxen, wolves, polar and grizzly bears, wolverines, and more than 135 varieties of birds. The area is also the main calving ground for the 120,000 head porcupine caribou herd, which migrates each spring to feed on the vegetation found there.

In the summer of 1997, I traveled to the refuge and was able to see first hand how beautiful and important this land is to both Alaska and the Nation. As part of a Senate delegation, I vis-

ited the port of Valdez, where oil is loaded onto tankers, and I traveled along the pipeline that brings oil from the north. I also flew over the refuge itself, including the Mollie Beattie Wilderness. I was astounded by the natural beauty of this area that is home to such variety of plants and animals that rely on the delicate balance that exists in this pristine wilderness. I also visited a number of native communities along the North Slope and spoke to the inhabitants about their life in this unique environment that they depend on for both their cultural identity and their survival. As a nation we must continue to protect this vital ecosystem and work to bring good jobs, education, and health care to these native communities.

I continue to believe that the United States dependence on oil and its by-products cannot overshadow the importance of keeping ANWR free from the traditional impacts of oil drilling and exploration. The technological improvements within the oil industry make it possible for the oil companies to use a slant drilling technique to harvest the oil in a manner that may not impact the ecosystem to the degree traditional techniques would. But drilling and exploration in this gentle Arctic wilderness at this time could have a lasting impact that would forever damage the environment of this region.

I applaud the Senator from Delaware's commitment to permanent protection for this unique linkage of ecosystems upon which the local communities depend, and the American community as a whole should value as a national and natural treasure.

U.S. COMMERCE DEPARTMENT'S NEW INTERNET PATENT AND TRADEMARKS DATABASE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to commend Commerce Secretary William Daley, acting Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Q. Todd Dickinson, and the U.S. Department of Commerce for their hard work and dedication in establishing the new Patent and Trademark Office Internet database. This online database truly reinvents how the government does business and how business innovation can flourish with government's help. This database will help erode some of the traditional barriers that have hindered business innovation in small, rural states like Vermont.

As an avid Internet user, I have long advocated a transition to an online database for trademarks and patents. The prior painstaking process of searching existing patents and trademarks was a time-consuming frustration for inventors. Last Congress I co-authored an amendment to the Omnibus Patent Act of 1997, which would have required the creation of computer networks to provide electronic access to patent information. I am proud that the database unveiled today achieves the goal of universal electronic access to trademarks and patents.